

Impact,

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is all about than we usually do. You see, when Enduring Freedom began, we suddenly lost the planners and operators that would have run the CAOC. We also lost a bunch of the original leaders, like Lt Gen Wald, who was going to be the CFACC. They were needed to start working the real-world situation. That meant we were going to go with a 'mini-CAOC' called a CFOC, or Combined Flying Operations Center, that wouldn't have all the operational planning capabilities of a full-blown CAOC, but would allow us to still do most of the flying training. And that's also when they brought in Brig Gen Bedke and Col Cain to take over."

"Yeah, those two were actually pretty impressive guys," interjected the author's slightly cocky side, from out of nowhere.

"Don't get too cocky—get back to the story!" admonished his better half. "Sometimes you just don't know when you're being way too cute!"

"Break it up, you two," chortled Maj Forward. "This is OUR story! Anyway, next we lost the E-3 AWACS support that was going to give us a real-time air picture. But the U.S. and Egyptian CFACC guys huddled together and came up with a backup plan. They decided to use U.S Navy and Egyptian Air Force E-2Cs to provide the same kind of information the AWACS would have given them. It wasn't quite the same, but it was a pretty good patch. In effect, it would give lots of smaller air pictures instead of one larger one. Difficult, but still manageable."

"So they could still do all the sorties they originally planned on, then?"

"Close. They had to cut down on some

of the fancy ones, and the replanning took a few extra days, so they lost about two days of flying. Still, they were pretty happy with what they had. Unfortunately, no plan ever survives first contact with the enemy, as they say—and this one didn't even get that far. Before they could start flying, they learned the U.S. Navy was going to have to pull out a bunch of its assets to support the real world—and that included their E-2Cs. Now they had to start all over again from scratch!"

"So I was right," mused Moss. "Things start getting kinda pointless after a while."

"Not really," forwarded Forward. "You see, even more important than the actual flying is all the effort that goes into coordinating these mass gaggles. What had taken literally 9 months of intense planning—including 3 major multinational planning conferences—had suddenly been tossed out the window and we were pulling out some blank sheets of paper. That forced the Egyptians and the Americans to really sit down and work closely and quickly to salvage the exercise. And what they learned by being forced to do that was that they really got to know each other—not only individually, but in the way the two air forces do business differently in many ways, and similarly in others. Brig Gen Bedke says that in coming up with the 'backup to the backup,' they learned more about how to work together than they ever would have if things had gone smoothly."

Pete began to put it all together. "Well, that tells me that next time we need to work together on something that's really operational, we ought to be able to do it better and cut through some of the standard communications gags. And the way the world

has been lately, that could be pretty soon—and it could be pretty darned important!"

"Now you're talking," agreed the Major. "The U.S. really had to keep modifying the plan—and the Egyptians were rock-solid with us the whole time. Somehow, the fire we found ourselves in really did forge stronger bonds. Folks that have done this before say they've never seen such willingness on both sides to see each others' points of view and try to accommodate each others' requests."

Tout was tight with that. "But what about the other coalition forces that played? Did we ever really do much with them?"

"Oh yeah, absolutely," Forward said. "We may not have seen it in Tent City, but there were formations flying together that had 6 airplanes—2 from each of 3 different nations—and each of those being different kinds of airplanes at that! So even the pilots and aircrews were getting in some new experience. And of course, when all the allies see the U.S. and the Host Nation getting along so tightly, you know that does good for all of us."

"Okay," approved Max Tout, "I buy it. I know this has personally been a bit of a pain in the butt every now and then, combined with some scary times for a while, but overall I gotta say I'm really proud of what I've accomplished—and what our own gang achieved during this exercise. I'm just glad to hear it was a success for the whole Air Force and U.S. team. I hope they remember the lessons they got here."

"One thing you can count on, Max," finished Maj Forward. "Ain't NOBODY going to forget THIS Bright Star for the rest of our lives!"

Champions,

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week and continue through November. Although it is the last phase of the exercise, its results set the lasting impression for our participation in this operation. In other words, many people will remember our contributions to Bright Star - 01/02 by how we finish our redeployment efforts.

My challenge for you is to finish with the "first class" effort that has taken

us to this key point in our mission – finish as champions. Complete our deployment with the same drive, attention to detail and commitment to excellence that has served us so well throughout our time in Egypt. Our mission is not complete until we have all returned home safely. Conquer our next set of challenges, like the champions I know you are.

Awards,

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Patricia Greear, Tanker Airlift Control Element, promoted to the rank of master sergeant.

Qui Web award winners

Congratulations to the Team Qui Web *weekly* award winners.
Airman: SrA. **Ann Mitchell**, 75th Expeditionary Support Squadron.
Non-commissioned officer: TSgt. **Tammy Roth**, 75th ESS.
Senior non-commissioned officer: MSgt. **Kenneth Parsons**, 822nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.
Company grade officer: 2nd Lt. **Joshua Hopewell**, 822nd ESFS.

Congratulations to the Team Qui Web *monthly* award winners.
Airman: SrA. **Joshua Kennedy**, 822nd ESFS
Non-commissioned officer: TSgt. **Adam Miller**, 822nd ESFS
Senior non-commissioned officer: SMSgt. **Ned Bandoske**, 822nd ESFS
Company grade officer: 1st Lt. **Brad Williams**, 75th Expeditionary Communications Squadron

